

# *The Glory of Zion*

*Christ's Light Shining Among Us*

Newsletter of **Zion Lutheran Church, School & Preschool**

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November 2025

## **“Restored to Give Thanks”**

November brings with it a certain stillness—a pause between the fading colors of autumn and the early whispers of winter. The air carries both memory and hope. And in this season of gratitude, our hearts are drawn again to the One who created, redeemed, and sustains all things.

Our November series reminds us that stewardship isn't just about what we give; it's about how we live. It's about seeing our whole life as a response to God's grand story—a story of restoration that begins with creation, runs through the cross, and continues even now in the ordinary moments of our days.

From the beginning, God called His creation “very good.” Humanity was made not as owners but as caretakers—creatures within creation, entrusted with the beauty and balance of God's world. But sin shattered that design, turning our hearts inward. We began to see life not as a gift to be shared but as a possession to be guarded. And yet, the story did not end in ruin. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The Son entered His creation to restore what we had broken—to reconcile us to the Father, to one another, and even to the world itself.

This is where stewardship begins again—not in our effort, but in Christ's. He teaches us to live rightly within God's story, not as autonomous beings, but as beloved children who find freedom in dependence. The Law of God, once something we resisted, becomes for us a path of joy—a guide to a life rightly ordered toward God and neighbor.

And in that ordering, something beautiful happens: gratitude grows. True thanksgiving is not a single day on the calendar; it's the posture of a redeemed heart. It's the recognition that all we have and all we are belong to God—and that we are most alive when our lives pour out in love toward others.

In a world that prizes independence and self-sufficiency, the call to stewardship is countercultural. It invites us to see the glory in the mundane—to serve our neighbors, to give generously, to honor creation, and to live every moment as worship. Whether it's a shared meal, a word of encouragement, or the quiet faithfulness of daily work, each act of love becomes an echo of God's restoring grace.

So, as we gather around our tables this Thanksgiving, may our gratitude run deeper than our blessings. May it rest in the Giver Himself—the Creator who formed us, the Redeemer who saved us, and the Spirit who empowers us to live as stewards of His new creation.

Because in Christ, all of life becomes thanksgiving.

And stewardship—at its heart—is simply living as those who have been restored to give thanks.

Thankfully Serving!

Pastor Schulte



## MINISTRY FOCUS: Hearts for the Harvest Banquet

By Kate Meadows

Get ready for the third annual Hearts for the Harvest Banquet, scheduled for Friday, Nov. 14, at the Best Western Ramkota! Doors open at 5 p.m. and the event begins at 6 p.m. The evening includes a silent auction, a dessert auction and more. This year's keynote speaker will be Andrea Thompson, a parent of one of Zion's second graders. Here is a sneak peek!

At the silent auction, look for a fire pit full of goodies donated by Culver's, artwork donated by Zion member Kevin Aker, tickets to a Rush hockey game and a sourdough-bread-making class offered by The Sour. Each Zion class will also donate a theme-based gift:

5th grade – gift card basket

4th grade – a homemade Connect Four game

3rd grade – Jesse Tree Christmas ornaments

2nd grade – baking basket

1st grade – pet basket

Kindergarten – travel basket

Preschool – bird watcher basket and a LED stained glass piece.

Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased at <https://charityauction.bid/zionbanquet2025>. Or you can scan the QR code above.

All proceeds from the banquet support the ministries of Zion Lutheran School and Preschool.



## 20th Annual Craft Fair & Bake Sale

Zion Lutheran Church will be having our 20th Annual Zion Craft Fair, Saturday November 22, 2025, from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. We will have over 30 local vendors with various homemade arts/crafts products, a huge bake sale, and rolls, coffee, and sloppy joe lunch. Please prayerfully consider how you can help with this event. Set-up on Friday including helping vendors carry in their goods, kitchen duty, bake sale table attendants, greeters, and tear down and getting set-up for church once show is done, are the many ways one can serve. The more help we have the easier it is. We will also need lots of yummy baked goods, especially pies, as this is right before Thanksgiving! We will also take homemade crafts!

We invite all of you to come to this really fun event for good food, fellowship, and some early Christmas shopping! All the proceeds will go to the Christ's Way building fund! You may call Jane Greff, 605 786-6279 with any questions.

Blessings!!

## Zion's Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML will meet on Saturday, November 8, at 10:00 a.m. in the Narthex. The theme for this month is CASA. Our guest speaker will be Kahala Two Bulls from CASA. Also, we will have a continuing Bible study about what the LCMS teaches led by Pastor Schulte. Along with a check for the amount gathered in the "No Bake" Bake sale, we will have an ingathering of items needed by CASA: socks, underwear, diapers, baby formula, baby wipes, clothing, menstrual hygiene products, shampoo/conditioner, body wash/bar soap, deodorant, and school supplies. There will be a container in the Narthex for donations. As always, thank you for supporting our mission projects.

All women are invited. Refreshments will be served.



## **STEWARDSHIP MINUTE: Traveling On Our Knees**

*By Kevin Aker*

Our school children recently got the opportunity to learn about prayer, and specifically prayed for the success of the capital campaign. As part of this process they were asked the following question, "Why do we want to add on to our building?" The children were very clear, they said the reason is so that more children and their families can come to Zion and learn about Jesus. That is exactly it!

This is something we all want, yet sometimes, we wonder, "Aside from supporting the campaign financially, what can I really do to help?" The best place to start? Prayer! I came across the poem, *Traveling on Your Knees* by Sandra Goodwin and I want to share it with you:

Last night I took a journey  
To a land across the seas.  
I didn't go by ship or plane  
I traveled on my knees.

I saw so many people there  
In bondage to their sin,  
And Jesus told me I should go,  
That there were souls to win.

But I said "Jesus, I can't go  
To lands across the seas."  
He answered quickly, "Yes, you can  
By traveling on your knees."

He said, "You pray, I'll meet the need.  
You call, and I will hear.  
It's up to you to be concerned  
For lost souls far and near."

And so I did; knelt in prayer,  
Gave up some hours of ease,  
And with the Savior by my side,  
I traveled on my knees.

As I prayed on, I saw souls saved  
And twisted persons healed,  
I saw God's workers strength renewed  
While laboring in the field.

I said, "Yes Lord, I'll take the job.  
Your heart I want to please.  
I'll heed Your call and swiftly go  
By traveling on my knees."

## **DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS: Knowing, Growing, & Serving Through Altar Guild**

*By Jan Meadows*

When you look at the altar area during worship, do you ever wonder why the colors are what they are, or who prepares the altar for worship?

The Altar Guild is a volunteer ministry of Zion that prepares the sanctuary for worship services by handling the setup, maintenance, and care of sacred items. Zion's Altar Guild routinely prepares and cleans the altar area (the chancel) for communion Sundays or for special days and seasons of the church year. They also care for the cleaning and repair of the altar cloths and napkins. They change the paraments (altar and pulpit falls, banners, etc.) to show the proper color for the liturgical season: blue for Advent, green for the seasons following Epiphany and Pentecost, black for Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, purple for Lent, white for Epiphany and Easter, red for Pentecost Sunday and Reformation Sunday. Although Altar Guild members have traditionally been the women of the congregation, any confirmed member of the congregation may join. Our Altar Guild especially benefits from the help of men when those large banners at the front of the sanctuary are changed.

Zion's Altar Guild is split into small teams of two or three people each, and each team is scheduled to serve one or two months out of the year. New Altar Guild members are always paired with experienced members so they can better learn and appreciate the Altar Guild's duties.

The Altar Guild Coordinator arranges the schedule each year. About 10 years ago Carlene Hennies, who had served on Altar Guild for several years, became the coordinator. When she had family responsibilities that kept her home, her daughter, Hope Genzlinger, took over as coordinator. Hope also was already an experienced Altar Guild member, having helped her mom while she was still in high school. Hope has been serving in the coordinator role for about five years now.

The Altar Guild is always grateful to accept new members. Contact Hope Genzlinger to be added to the schedule in the future. The important thing to remember is that, most of all, we want to know Jesus, grow in faith and serve with love for God and His Church.



## **SCHOOL FOCUS: Natalie Graumann—Literacy Aide**

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*By Natalie Graumann*

I am Natalie Graumann and I have the great honor to be the Literacy Aide for grades K-2. What does a Literacy Aide do you may wonder? I work primarily on reading and writing skills with students. My favorite part of this position is getting to still be in the classroom supporting the teachers and students. I am able to help wherever the student needs are: whether that's working one-on-one or small group instruction. If they are struggling, I help support learning strategies or skills; if they are advanced, we work on continuing to grow and not become stagnant. This part-time role allows me to still do what I love and am called to do, teach; but yet allows the flexibility my personal and family life needed. I am blessed that I can still be at Zion planting seeds of knowledge and faith in our students.



### **Meet Natalie Graumann**

*By Kate Meadows*

Small-town life was all Natalie Graumann knew before she relocated to Rapid City in 2009, newly married to lifelong Zion member Dan Graumann. She had met Dan at Concordia University-Seward. He was there on a soccer scholarship and intended to work in his family's roofing business after college. Natalie was there for a Lutheran teaching degree. Both had belonged to LCMS churches their whole lives.

The middle of 3 girls, Natalie said she always knew she wanted to be a teacher. She had grown up on a farm in rural Osmond, NE (population less than 1,000). Babysitting jobs further spurred her interest in working with children, cementing her dream of becoming a teacher.

"That's what you do in a small town to make money," she said: "You babysit."

The summer she moved to Rapid City, she worked at Zion's Summer Daycare program. She started teaching at Zion full-time in August 2009, in a Kindergarten classroom. Her Kindergarten teaching tenure was punctuated by a short stint teaching preschool. In 2024, she transitioned by her own choice to part-time, working as Zion's literacy aide. With two growing girls – Brynley (in 6th grade at Rapid City Christian School) and Maycie (in 3rd grade at Zion) – a new house on land near Hermosa and activities galore, she said job flexibility became a top priority.

Now as Zion's literacy aide, Natalie works with small groups of students in grades K-2, primarily helping them build reading skills.

Experience has shown Natalie that students are always at different levels, even though they may be in the same classroom. Working in small groups allows her to "reach each child," she said.

"I think about those one-room schoolhouses. They had kids at different levels all the time. It's about reaching children where they are. And that's a lot for one teacher with 15-22 students," she said.

In addition to her work at Zion, Natalie serves on the Youth Board and is the organizer of the annual Hearts for the Harvest banquet.

But once a teacher, always a teacher.

"The best part [about teaching] is the influence you have on kids, later in their lives," Natalie said.

She recalled a recent interaction with one of her former students: "I overheard him say [to his friend], 'She doesn't remember me. She used to be my teacher.' I turned and said, 'I do remember you. I didn't know if you wanted me to say hi while you're out with your friends.'"

"They do remember," she said. "And that's really cool. For all my students, I hope they maintain that faith seed we planted [at Zion]. Keep it growing."

## Mr. Dobbs' Third Grade Class

### What Bible story would you want to see if you could travel back to Bible times?

**Kinley:** I would like to see the feeding of the 5,000 people because it would be cool to see Him turn three fish & five pieces of bread into lots!

**Natalie:** Noah build the ark because I think it would be cool.

**Sawyer:** the crossing of the Red Sea because I want to see how long it took to cross.

**Beau:** the birth of Jesus because I would like to see the big shooting star with the shepherds.

**Eden:** I would like to see the Garden of Eden; I think it would be pretty.

**Brenna:** Moses and the ten plagues because I want to see if the snakes were harmless.

**Maycie:** the birth of Jesus because I have always wondered what it was like. I want to see baby Jesus, how many kings were there, the animals, and the star that led the kings there.

**Charli:** Noah's ark because I like animals and the ark is huge.

**Octavius:** I would like to see Noah's ark because I want to see the animals.

**Clayton:** Noah's Ark so I could see all the animals.

**Cody:** the Garden of Eden because I would like to see a world with no sin, pain, and death. I would like to hug a harmless Titan Boa, the biggest snake of all time.

**Zane:** I would like to see the empty tomb.

**Tylie:** I would like to see Jesus walking on water because I would like to walk on water too, just like Peter.

**Isabella:** I would like to see baby Jesus because I want to see the star.

**Cullen:** the Passover because I want to see how tough it is to do what the Israelites did.

**Beckett:** Noah's ark because it would look different when God flooded Earth.

**Olivia:** the birth of Jesus because I want to know how many kings were there.

**Sam:** when Jesus rose from the dead; it would be amazing!

**Joshua:** the Exodus story because I would like to see the crossing of the Red Sea.

Noah's Ark so I could see Noah's family and all the animals.

**Ramsey:** Daniel and the Lion's den because I want to see how God protected Daniel from danger.

## From the Principal's Office

### Book Fair/ Books & Lunch Together (BLT)

Zion's PTL will be sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair November 24 & 25. These books make great Christmas presents!

In conjunction with the book fair, we are inviting grandparents and/or special guests to come and have lunch with their student on Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Guests will need to bring a lunch. Students will be able to look at the book fair with their guest(s) and show them their classroom.

### Thanksgiving Break

There will not be school, preschool, or daycare on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. School and daycare will resume on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### LEA Convocation

Zion's teachers attended the Lutheran Education Association (LEA) Convocation in St. Louis, Missouri, from October 1-4. Held every three years, this national

event brought together approximately 3,000 Lutheran educators from across the country for a time of learning, fellowship, and worship.

Throughout the three-day conference, teachers participated in breakout sessions tailored to their specific grade levels and interests, explored the trade show, attended a formal banquet, and heard from several keynote speakers. It was also a meaningful opportunity for educators to connect with one another and to worship and praise God together.

A highlight for the Zion team was hearing from Gerry Brooks—an experienced educator, principal, and motivational speaker—whose insights and humor left a lasting impression.



## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Odle Family

By Phyllis Martens

Meet new Zion members and newlyweds Devin and Danica Odle! Two cats, Clawdia and Charlie, complete their immediate family circle.

Danica teaches PE at Zion and serves as a preschool aide in the afternoons. She also volunteers for various school events. She is a graduate of Black Hills State University.

Devin, who grew up in Sturgis, spent time working at Black Hills campgrounds in the summers plus working odd jobs during the annual Sturgis Rally. He graduated from School of Mines with an electrical engineering degree and is currently working as an engineering consultant at HDR in Rapid City.

Both Devin and Danica enjoyed helping with the Zion craft fair in 2024. They attended new member classes in the fall of 2024. They wanted to get married and have a Christ-centered marriage. Danica grew up Episcopalian; Devin had not previously attended church regularly. After one of the new member classes last fall, Devin asked Pastor Bryan about baptism in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. These questions happened on a Thursday after a new member class, and the following Sunday, Devin was baptized.

Danica's favorite thing about Zion – both as a member of the church and as an employee – is the welcoming feeling she receives there. Danica says Zion feels like such a safe place to worship and to work. Devin, who admits to having preconceived notions of what church would be like, said that attending Zion has been nothing like what he imagined church would be. Attending Zion has become an important and favorite part of Danica and Devin's life together.

Danica was born in Spokane, WA, and later moved to Gillette, WY. Devin was born in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He has lived in Sturgis since age 5. Devin has a brother and a sister, while Danica has 7 siblings. Devin's family is still in the Sturgis area; Danica's family remains in the Gillette area.

Devin and Danica like the outdoors finding new places to hike as well as hiking the nearby places. Danica loves to read, and Devin is passionate about all things sports.

One thing that makes the Odles' marriage unique is that they celebrated the marriage twice within a matter of months. They were officially married in April 2025, in a small and simple service with only their immediate family present. Their more public wedding occurred in September 2025, with extended family and friends present. Pastor Bryan officiated at both ceremonies.



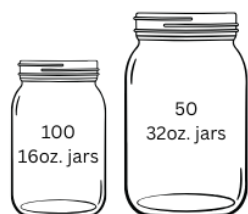
## We want your jars!

We are making center pieces for our  
Commitment Celebration in December.

If you have jars you are willing to donate,  
please drop them off in the front office.

Please drop jars off by  
November 10.

Christ's Way  
Continuing in Faith  
Zion's Ministry Expansion Campaign



## CONGREGATION MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Anderson Family

By Peggy Hettick

On one level, Ken and Laure Anderson's story is simple: It's a story about a guy who meets a lady through a friend. They shared similar interests, became friends and over a period of 2 years of friendship, began dating long-distance.

That was more than 30 years ago.

Ken and Laure met in 1994 through a former Zion member, Lucie Ronfeldt. When Lucie and her husband, Clyde, learned that Ken and Laure were looking for a church home, they encouraged the two to check out Zion. Ken and Laure came, and they have called Zion their church home ever since. Pastor Duley married them in 1996 at the church on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Quincy.

Ken was born in Haywarden, Iowa, but was raised in Beresford, SD. Laure was born in Dickinson, ND. Her family moved to South Dakota when she was 6.

Both Ken and Laure work in the healthcare field. Ken, also known as Dr. Anderson, is a chiropractor who owns his own practice. Prior to relocating his practice to Rapid City, he practiced in Wagner, SD. He has worked as a chiropractor for 39 years.

Laure, a registered nurse, started her nursing career at West Hills Village, in long-term nursing care, shortly after West Hills Village opened. From long-term nursing care she transitioned to Home Health at West Hills Village. In 2007, she transferred to Monument Health and joined the Hospice and Home Health Team. Now she works as the nursing supervisor at the Black Hills Pregnancy Center.

When they are not working or volunteering at Zion, Ken and Laure enjoy spending time with their four-legged children, their dogs. Ken enjoys spending time outdoors, which he refers to as "God's creation," and hiking. He also enjoys traveling and sightseeing. Laure loves to lose herself in a good book. She also enjoys working in her flower gardens and loves sharing a good cup of coffee with friends.

Both Ken and Laure have dedicated their lives to caring and serving others, not only in their careers, but at Zion, as well. Ken is on the Board of Lay Ministry. Laure is on the Board of Discipleship. Both are coordinators for the Capital Campaign, and both help with many other church activities.

Ken and Laure say they feel blessed to have made many friends over the years at Zion, but they feel especially blessed to have known and will always remember Lucie Ronfeldt for her kindness. That's because, were it not for Lucie, Ken and Laure would have never met, nor would they likely have become members of Zion.

Lucie Ronfeldt died February 4, 2022 at the age of 85.



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### WICKS

Widows In Christ Know Salvation will be meeting again in November. They will meet at Westhills Village on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 12:30 PM.

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Stoltz at 605-431-3595 or Priscilla Sayles at 605-341-0505.

### Beginning With Moses

Check out Pastor Schulte's YouTube Bible lessons by scanning the QR Code.



## Christ's Way – Continuing in Faith

Zion Lutheran Church, School & Preschool invites you to a special **Celebration Service and Dinner on Sunday, December 14th**, at the **Rapid City Ramkota Inn**. This will be a full worship service beginning at **11:00 AM**, followed by a **buffet-style lunch** as we come together to celebrate all that God is doing through our *Christ's Way – Continuing in Faith* Capital Campaign.



This event is for our entire Zion family – church, school, and preschool – as we thank God for His blessings and look forward to the future He has planned for us. It's a time to rejoice in faith, fellowship, and generosity, and to see how our shared commitment is helping to strengthen Zion's mission and ministry for generations to come.

Please plan to join us for this special day of worship, celebration, and community. **All school families are warmly invited** to share in this meaningful milestone as we continue walking together in Christ's Way!



**Please RSVP by December 8th** to the church office so we can plan accordingly for the buffet lunch.

*Hosted by the Christ's Way – Continuing in Faith Campaign Team*

*"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."*

— **Hebrews 12:1–2**



Scan to Register

## Zion Rapid City “gives a hoot” for their OWLS!

*By: Marilyn Herz*

One focus of Zion's “Christ's Way ... Continuing in Faith” ministry expansion campaign is that every member is informed about the expansion plans and progress. To that end, the campaign team has been meeting with every Zion organization it can. It occurred to the team that many of their “OWLS,” lightheartedly labeled as Older, Wiser Lutherans (term borrowed from Pastor Schulte's former MO congregation), are physically challenged to attend regular worship services and fellowship events.

So, invitations were delivered, follow-up phone calls made, and on Tuesday, October 14, Zion hosted a special communion worship service, followed by lunch and an update on the capital campaign. It was a heartwarming reunion for these longtime Zion faithful and a joy to hear their appreciation for this opportunity to commune and enjoy fellowship together. Many thanks are due to Pastor Bryan Meadows for creating and conducting this additional worship service, the lay ministers who served, Pat Jessen for communion preparation, Juanita Ediger for organ music, Ann Woidtke and her team who prepared and served the lunch, the volunteers who helped with set up and accompanied the guests during the service and the lunch, and the Christ's Way team who presented the current plans and progress. Those plans include six additional classrooms and a gymnasium, which will allow the current multipurpose “sanctinasion” to become a dedicated worship space. It's all about Zion's mission: “Knowing Jesus, Growing in Faith, and Serving with Love!”



*OWLS visiting after the luncheon.*

## Fall Discipleship Fair

The fall Discipleship Fair will take place November 8 & 9. To have your event, committee, or group information included, please reach out to Azure Summers, 360-480-0023, or any member of the Discipleship board.



## Mark Your Calendars!

**November 8-9:** Fall Discipleship Fair at Zion.

**November 14:** Third Annual Banquet.

**November 22:** 20th Annual Craft Fair at Zion.

**November 23:** Annual Voters' Meeting after late service.

**December 5:** Leadership Commitment Social for Christ's Way at Journey Museum.

**December 13:** School Christmas Programs: PK-Grade 1 at 11:00 AM & Grades 2-5 at 2:30 PM.